

CLASSIFICATION S-E-C-R-E-T

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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SUBJECT GST and SED Kampfgruppen (Combat Groups)

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1. On occasion of a meeting of functionaries of the Gesellschaft fuer Sport und Technik (GST) on 20 March 1955 in Halle, it was announced that the GST was no longer financed by the plants but exclusively by the Ministry of the Interior. Since January, the GST has been directly subordinate to this ministry.
2. About 1 March, Richard Staimer, son-in-law of Pieck, was nominated as chief of the GST. The former first secretary, Berthold, was made chief of administration of the GST. On 4 March, the new chief was installed on occasion of a meeting in Halle which was also attended by two representatives of the Czech Svazarm, a union for cooperation with the army. Resolutions which were passed at the meeting concerned intensified political and ideological indoctrination.
3. Staimer as new chief of the GST delivered the main speech at the Halle meeting on 4 March. He criticized the lax working procedures within the GST. He stated that the GST lost 14,000 members in 1954. Ten percent of all groups had no leader. Only 60 percent of the contributions were actually paid.
4. According to an order by the Central Headquarters of the GST of early March 1955, the GST had at once to take over premilitary training of the PdJ and the worker's "combat groups". Brigadier General Staimer was responsible for the entire premilitary training in the GDR.
5. Staimer had initiated the preparation of a plan, according to which 800 selected GST members were to be trained as tank drivers. Between April and June, 2-week courses were to be held for reliable tractor drivers. Between July and November, the courses are to be attended also by other members of the GST. KVP tank training units are to be employed in the training.

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6. Between 19 and 21 November 1954, a course for SED Kampfgruppen of the Ministry for Heavy Industry was held in Puerstenwalde. General tasks of the "Kampfgruppen" were declared to be: alerting of coworkers against provocations, support of state executive agencies, security of important meetings, important buildings and plant installations, and political indoctrination within the enterprises. [redacted] the total strength of the "Kampfgruppen" in the GDR was to be increased to approximately 500,000 members. 25X1
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7. On 20 January, employees of the cooperative shops and the HO (trade organization) in Bad Freienwalde allegedly had to report at the SED Kreisleitung. Most of the persons concerned were NCOs of the former German army who were under 40 years old. They learned that they were to be inducted in mid-February for a 2-month military training course.
8. In mid-February, it was learned that SED members who had been NCOs in the former German army had to report at the SED Kreisleitungen where they were told that they had to participate in military training courses.
9. On 28 February, 8-week courses for selected SED members started in GST schools. Infantry training was held in Lauenhain near Chemnitz, motor vehicle training in the Motorsportschule of the GST in Bautzen, naval training at the Seesportschule of the GST in Rechlin and radio and telephone training in Laucha near Halle.
10. Since the majority of the "Kampfgruppen" in the enterprises of the Frankfurt district have existed only on the paper so far, the SED announced in mid-February that the GST was to take charge of the training of these groups. According to the new organization plan, a "Kampfgruppe" was to number 6 men and a "Kampfzug" 13 men.
11. At about 1000 on 20 March, 80 men in civilian clothing with red brassards drilled without weapons near Muehlenberg in Weissenfels. The instructors appeared to be KVP soldiers. The civilians were natives of Weissenfels.
- [redacted] Comment. Intensified premilitary training in the GST was started several months ago. [redacted] First indications of short courses for former NCOs were previously reported. Stainer will probably coordinate all pre- and semi-military training of the GST and other organizations. 25X1
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